

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 5980

LIMDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR S/NM-AMBASSADOR VANCE AND EUR/WE-MRS. SHIRLEY

GENEVA FOR MISS GOUGH

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, NL

SUBJ: NARCOTICS CONTROL: VISIT OF DEREK DE GEER

SUMMARY: DEREK DE GEER, KEY STAFF MEMBER OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT MINISTER VORRINK, HAS JUST INFORMED US HE WILL BE IN NEW YORK DECEMBER 15 TO 20 IN CONNECTION WITH UNEP CONSULTATIONS AND WOULD AT SAME TIME LIKE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH US DRUG OFFICIALS. DESPITE SHORT LEAD TIME, WE HOPE DEPARTMENT WILL BE ABLE TO SET UP BRIEFING FOR DE GEER IN NEW YORK ON SOCIOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF DRUG ABUSE, AS THIS COULD BE VERY HELPFUL IN OUR EFFORTS TO GET HEALTH MINISTER'S BACKING FOR DRUG SYMPOSIUM WE ARE PROJECTING FOR EARLY NEXT YEAR. END SUMMARY.

1. AS PART OF OUR RECENTLY ADOPTED THREE-PHASE ANTI-DRUG PROGRAM (OUTLINE AND STATUS OF WHICH IS BEING SEPARATELY MESSAGED), I HAVE BEEN WORKING TOWARD CONVENING AN ANTI-HARD DRUG SYMPOSIUM EARLY NEXT SPRING, ONE ASPECT
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OF WHICH WOULD FOCUS ON THE OVERALL SOCIOLOGICAL IMPACT

OF DRUG ABUSE. THE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE HERE IS TO OBTAIN ACTIVE PARTICIPATION BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT AND THE GENERAL OBJECTIVE TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC AND FOCUS PUBLIC ATTENTION ON THE ISSUE OF DRUG ABUSE.

2. THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH IS HEADED BY MADAME VORRINK, WHO IS CONSIDERED ULTRA-LIBERAL AND WHOSE ATTITUDE ON DRUG ABUSE HAS BEEN AMBIVALENT. NONETHELESS, MADAME VORRINK'S ENDORSEMENT OF THIS PROGRAM WILL BE ESSENTIAL. DURING MY RECENT CALL ON HER I OUTLINED THE CONCEPT I HAD IN MIND, STRESSING THE THEME THAT VULNERABLE AND GENERALLY UNINFORMED ELEMENTS OF DUTCH SOCIETY ARE BEING EXPLOITED BY CLEVER CRIMINALS WHO, WITH A MINIMUM OF RISK, ARE MAKING LARGE AND ILLEGAL PROFITS AT THEIR EXPENSE.

3. I WENT ON TO SUGGEST THAT PUBLIC ATTENTION COULD WELL BE FOCUSED ON THIS UNDESIRABLE SITUATION THROUGH A SYMPOSIUM DEALING WITH THE WHOLE SPECTRUM OF SOCIOLOGICAL IMPACT OF DRUG ABUSE. THIS WOULD INCLUDE AN ANALYSIS OF WHO THE TRAFFICKERS ARE, WHERE THE TRAFFIC COMES FROM, HOW THE MAJOR FIGURES HIDE BEHIND UNWITTING VICTIMS; WHAT THE IMPACT OF A DRUG HABIT IS ON AN INDIVIDUAL'S PATTERN OF LIVING, MORAL DEGRADATION, AND IN THE CASE OF THE NON-AFFLUENT, RESORT TO CRIME TO SUPPORT THEIR HABIT; THE PSYCHOLOGICAL DAMAGE TO THE INDIVIDUAL, THE COST TO SOCIETY OF SUCH DAMAGED INDIVIDUALS IN TERMS OF OTHER CRIME AND THE COST OF THEIR TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION; TYPES OF TREATMENT, MODES OF REHABILITATION AND THEIR SUCCESS AND FAILURES, INCLUDING HALF-WAY HOUSE AND SINANON; METHODS OF TREATMENT AND OTHER SIMILAR CONCEPTS, PUBLIC AWARENESS AND THE NEED FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION TO PREVENT THIS EXPLOITATION OF THE WEAK FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FEW.

4. ATTENDING OUR MEET WAS DEREK DE GEER, DIRECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, WHO IS A FRIEND OF OURS AND WHOSE SUPPORT WILL BE INFLUENTIAL WITH MADAME VORRINK. DE GEER WORKED EIGHT CONFIDENTIAL

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YEARS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, THEN THREE YEARS IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND HAS BEEN WITH THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS. I AM NOT CERTAIN ABOUT HIS ORIENTATION TOWARDS THE ISSUE OF SOFT DRUG USE, BUT I AM PRETTY SURE HE IS SOLIDLY WITH US ON THE ISSUE OF HARD DRUG ABUSE.

5. DE GEER HAS JUST INFORMED ME THAT HE IS LEAVING

DECEMBER 15 FOR NEW YORK TO ATTEND INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON THE UN ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE AT UN HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK. HE EXPECTS TO LEAVE NEWYORK ON THE EVENING OF FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20. DE GEER ALSO SAID THAT HE HAS NOT "GOTTEN THE GREEN LIGHT" FROM MINISTER VORRINK TO DISCUSS WITH US MORE PRECISELY THE POSSIBILITIES ON OUR SUGGESTED SYMPOSIUM AND IS PREPARED TO WORK OUT DETAILS WITH US ON HIS RETURN FROM THE STATES. HE WONDERED WHETHER HE MIGHT NOT PROFITABLY MEET WITHOUR ANTI-DRUG EXPERTS ON SOCIOLOGICAL ASPECTS DURING HIS NEW YORK STAY. HE MENTIONED CONTACTS HE HAD HAD WITH JEROME HOLMBLAS, AN OFFICIAL OF THE ADDICTION SERVICES OF NEW YORK. I AM NOT SURE OF THE SPELLING OF HOLMBLAS' NAME NOR WHETHER HE IS WITH THE CITY OR STATE.

5. FOR OBVIOUS REASON, WE WOULD LIKE TO ACCOMMODATE DE GEER AND I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT A PROGRAM BE ARRANGED FOR HIM IN NEW YORK, AS HE ADVISED IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO GO TO WASHINGTON DUE TO HIS OTHER DUTIES. THIS PROGRAM SHOULD BE DESIGNED TO TOUCH ON VARIOUS FACETS OF THE SOCIOLOGICAL ASPECTS OD DRUG ABSUE. THERE IS NOTHING SACRSANCT ABOUT MY PRESENTATION TO THE MINSTER OUTLINED ABOVE AND WHATEVER SYMPOSIUM TOPICS AND FORMAT OUR EXPERTS CONSIDER MORE DESIRABLE IS NATURALLY ENTIRELY ACCETABLE TO US. HOWEVER, I DO THINK THE THEME OF "EXPLOITATION" IS ONE THAT IS WORTH PURSUING GIVEN THE BASIC ORIENTATION OF THE MINISTER AND PERHAPS DE GEER HIMSELF. IF ONEOR MORE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS FROM DR. DUPTONT'S OFFICE COULD TRAVEL TO NEWYORK TO MEET WITH DE GEER I THINK THIS WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL. ALSO, WE WULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT PUTTING DE GEER IN TOUCH WITH HOLMBLAS IF HE CAN BE

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IDENTIFIED AND IF YOU FEEEL HE WOULD MAKE A USEFUL CONTRIBUTION TO DE GEER'S BRIEFING.

6. DE GEER IS NOT SURE WHERE HE WILL BE STAYING BUT SAYS HE CAN ALWAYS BE REACHED THROUGH THE DUTCH MISSION TO THE UN. HE IS A BRIGHT, ATTRACTIVE, HARD-WORKING PERSONALITY.

7. WHILE I REALIZE THAT THE TIME TO ARRANGE A PROGRAM IS VERY SHORT, I FEEL TO DO SO FOR DE GEER COULD HELP ENORMOUSLY IN MOVING THE NETHERLANDS TOWARDS A REALLY EFFECTIVE ATTITUDE REGARDING HARD DRUG ABUSE AND WOULD HOPE WE COULD HEAR BEFORE HE LEAVES ON SUNDAY AS TO WHAT YOU FEEL WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO FOR HIM. ONE WORD OF CAUTION-I FEEL WE SHOULD CONFINE OUR

EFFORTS AT THIS STAGE EXCLUSIVELY TOTHE FIELD OF HARD
DRUG ABUSE.
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Message Attributes

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TAGS: SNAR, NL, (DE GEER, DEREK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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